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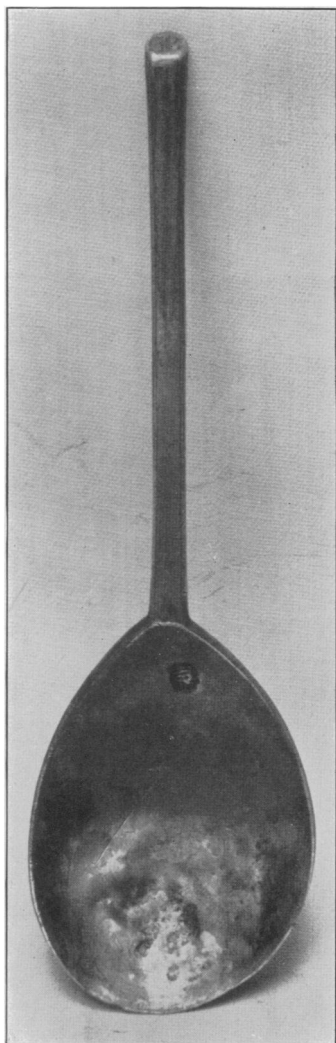
## AN ELIZABETHAN "PURITAN" SPOON

From the time of the Tudors until a short time after the Restoration the stems of spoons were cut off at an angle at the end as if they might once have been "Apostle" spoons and had had the figures roughly lopped off. Spoons with such stems were generally referred to as "slipped in the stalks" in 1500, and again, as "sleppe-ended" in 1580. They were quite popular for a long time, and were very commonly called "Puritan" spoons, not because the shape was developed during the Puritan ascendancy, but because during the period when Puritanism was dominant, under the name of "Commonwealth," this form, probably by reason of its severe plainness, appears to have been the most favored. Spoons of this period had the leopard's head stamped inside the bowl, and the date-letter is often stamped at the end of the handle, close to the slip end, perhaps to show that it has not been shortened or tampered with.

Valuable information can be found in "Old English Plate," by Cripps, and in that wonderful paper on "The Spoon and Its History," by C. J. Jackson, published in "Archæologia," Volume LIII.

The spoon here illustrated, in the collection of the Pennsylvania Museum, has the date-letter for London, 1591, and the maker's mark, "R. C." stamped on the back.

JOHN H. BUCK.



"PURITAN" SPOON  
Front, showing  
Leopard's Head Mark

